

have served with an extraordinary number of talented and dedicated representatives from both sides of the aisle, and with similarly dedicated and effective congressional staff, who of course make possible the work of Congress.

As a Member, I have been particularly aided by an especially talented, loyal, unusually long-serving, and hard-working congressional office staff and subcommittee staff of high integrity who epitomize the best qualities of my Nebraska constituents and of those Americans who make our country the finest in the world.

However, there comes a time in many a representative's life when that Member of Congress is ready to focus on other priorities and objectives, and I am at that point in my life. Therefore, the purpose of this letter is to communicate to you that effective at the end of the day on August 31, 2004, I am resigning my seat as the Representative of the 1st District of Nebraska in the U.S. House of Representatives. I also have written to the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives to advise him of my decision.

Best wishes,

DOUG BEREUTER,
Member of Congress.

REMEMBERING AUNITA TRIDORIS HUDSON-EDWARDS

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to read words of reflection about one who believed who just passed away, and read this scripture, "God had the power to work within her and to accomplish abundantly far more than all she could ask or imagine."

Aunita T. Hudson-Edwards was born to Levi Hudson and Elnora Davis Hudson on September 20, 1915 in Carthage, Texas. She was the first of three children, and she just recently passed away. When she married Frank Edwards, she enjoyed parenting four children. Many of you might know Willis Edwards, Brenda Joe Edwards and Edward Earl and Frank. In California she worked as a teacher in Palm Springs Unified School District for 15 years and found herself taking in children who had no one else to claim them. She was active in the community, and as a quiet force demonstrated her trailblazing tendency by founding the Palm Springs Chapter of the NAACP and joining as a founding member of the First Baptist Church. She was a life member of the NAACP.

Mr. Speaker, she was a stateswoman, this woman that we pay tribute as she passes on. She enjoyed coming here to the White House during the Clinton and Bush administrations and tended two Congressional Gold Medal ceremonies, one for Rosa Parks and the recent ceremony for Dorothy Height. She loved going to the NAACP national conventions. She was a great soul we will always remember, and wish that her legacy would produce more like Aunita T. Hudson-Edwards.

MRS. AUNITA TRIDORIS HUDSON-EDWARDS

Words of Reflection about one who believed—

"God had the power to work within (her) and to accomplish abundantly far more than all (she) could ask or imagine . . ." Ephesians 3:20 (NRSV)

Aunita T. Hudson-Edwards was born to Levi Hudson and Elnora Davis Hudson on Sept. 20, 1915 in Carthage, Texas. She was the first of three children. She attended public school in Carthage, Texas and graduated from Bishop College, Marshall, Texas. She taught in the Texas public school system for many years. At an early age she united with Bethlehem Baptist Church of Carthage and remained active until she relocated to California.

She married Frank Edwards and enjoyed parenting four children, Willis, Brenda Jo, Edward Earl, and Frank. In California she worked as a teacher in the Palm Springs Unified School System for 15 years and found herself "taking in" children who had no one to claim them. She was active in the community, and as a quiet force demonstrated her trailblazing tendencies by founding the Palm Springs chapter of the NAACP and joining as a founding member of the First Baptist Church. She was a life member of the NAACP.

As an elder stateswoman she enjoyed accompanying Willis to the White House during the Clinton and Bush Administrations, and attended two Congressional Gold Medal ceremonies (Rosa Parks and Dorothy Height), NAACP national conventions, Congressional Black Caucus weekends, NAACP Image Awards, and numerous awards and community service events.

Aunita T. Hudson-Edwards departed this life July 19, 2004. She is preceded in death by her husband, Frank, her sister, Nelva J. Thomas and brother, Hodges Hudson, both of Kansas City, MO and her son Edward Earl. She leaves to cherish her memory, a son, Willis Edwards of Los Angeles, CA; a daughter, Brenda Joe Pine of Palm Springs, CA; a son Frank Edwards of Northridge, CA; grandchildren: Kisha Dixon, Zachary Clayton, Renita Pine, Natalie Edwards, Antoinette Pine, Charlotte Pine, Derrick Pine, Teresa (Kent) Taylor, Tanya (Kenneth) Molinelli, Karon (Lennard) Lehman, and Sharon Edwards; great-grandchildren: Devian, Fanasha, David, Demaria, Kadisha, Eric, Sierra, Alonzo, Jr., Demitra, Tony, Alonzo, Jason, Jr., Jordan, Deshaun, Delawn, Derrian, Armani, Sherlita, Juan, Viviana, Derrick Jordan, DeMond, Jade, Arika, Eleana, Suamana (Bright), Mattias, Christian, Michelle, Heather, and Thomas; a nephew, Perry C. Daniels of Longview, TX; a niece, Gwendolyn C. Moore of Miami, FL; niece, Jacquetta J. West of Kansas City, MO; brother-in-law, Dr. Jackson Thomas of Kansas City, MO. She also leaves a host of nieces and nephews in addition to the many relatives and friends in California and Texas.

Aunita TriDoris Hudson-Edwards made herself available to be used by God. Because of her, young people were rescued, communities were activated, churches fulfilled their ministries, and her family was blessed.

Thank you, Mother Aunita, for giving us so much—We pledge to honor your legacy of humble service with the establishment of a computer lab for senior citizens at the First Baptist Church of Palm Springs sponsored by the Tavis Smiley Foundation and the Aunita TriDoris Hudson-Edwards Scholarship Fund in your name. Until we meet again!

JULY 21, 2004.

HOME GOING SERVICES FOR WILLIS EDWARDS' MOM

We mourn not because she is lost, for God has taken her home, but because we will miss her. Yet, we are assured that if we are faithful, that parting will be only for a short while. We thank God that Mother Edwards

came our way and loved us. Willis Edwards has asked that you, his extended family and friends know of the Homegoing Services for his Mom—

AUNITA TRIDORIS HUDSON-EDWARDS

Service in Los Angeles, Saturday, July 24, 2004, 11:00 AM, Ward AME Church, 1177 W. 25th Street, Los Angeles, CA.

Rev. Norman D. Copeland, Pastor and Officiant, Bishop Carolyn Tyler-Guidry, Eulogist.

Service in Palm Springs, Tuesday, July 27, 2004, 11:00 AM, First Baptist Church, 588 Las Vegas Road, Palm Springs, CA.

Rev. Rodney S. Croom, Officiant/Pastor.

Services conducted by: Agape Funeral Home—4250 South Central Avenue—Los Angeles, CA.

For those who have inquired, in lieu of flowers you may want to make a contribution to the Aunita Tridoris Hudson-Edwards Scholarship Fund to provide assistance to young people pursuing college and/or graduate degrees.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2225

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 10 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2004, PART IV

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Science, and the Committee on Resources be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4916) to provide an extension of highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I regret that, for a record fifth time, we are again on this floor to extend the highway transit and highway safety programs. Our last extension was 2 months ago, amidst high hopes that we would be able to conclude a conference on the TEA-LU bill that the House passed and the companion bill passed in the other body.

The committee of conference, as we quaintly say in the language of the House, has come to no resolution